

STATEMENT OF CJAM ROBERT A. MULLIGAN AND
COMMISSIONER DAVID B. PERINI, DCAM
RE: MIDDLESEX COUNTY COURTHOUSE

May 24, 2005

On each and every occasion that DCAM Commissioner David B. Perini and I have addressed the planned elevator replacement project at The Edward J. Sullivan Courthouse in Cambridge, we have focused on the health of the building occupants and users as our paramount concern.

Given the high level of concern on the part of certain building occupants over the asbestos related work associated with the elevator project, Commissioner Perini and I have decided that the asbestos abatement phase of the elevator replacement project will not be undertaken while the building is occupied. Building occupants will be relocated during the asbestos abatement of the elevator shafts, preliminary to replacement of the elevators. We estimate that the abatement phase can be accomplished in less than a year from start to finish.

DCAM's consultants, including a leading national authority on the use of asbestos in buildings, have advised us that this project, including the asbestos abatement, can be accomplished safely while the building is occupied. Elevator replacement projects requiring asbestos abatement have been successfully completed in many buildings. However, in consideration of the high level of concern at the Sullivan Courthouse, we do not think that it would be prudent to proceed with the abatement phase of the elevator project while the building is occupied.

The relocation of the busiest courthouse in the Commonwealth, the data center for the entire court system and the number of other entities including the District Attorney, the Middlesex County Sheriff and approximately 350 detainees, will all require careful and methodical planning, which will take many months. During the planning phase, air quality monitoring will continue and maintenance activities will be strictly governed by the Operations and Maintenance Plan.

All elevators in the building have passed State inspection, and AOTC and DCAM will continue to carefully monitor the elevators until they can be replaced.